

18. Audit Committee Terms of Reference

John Scott, Audit Manager:

- a. presented a report to obtain comments on an update to the Audit Committee terms of reference based on best practice issued by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA), prior to referral to Full Council for approval
- b. reported that the terms of reference should be amended to reflect a recent update by CIPFA on their guidance on Audit Committees
- c. outlined the main changes to the terms of reference as detailed at paragraph 4 and Appendices A and B of the report
- d. advised that a report on the proposal to review the governance and assurance arrangements for significant partnerships or collaborations in outline form would be presented to the next meeting of Audit Committee on 27 September 2018
- e. requested member's consideration of the revised terms of reference for Audit Committee.

Jane Nellist, Independent Member, enquired whether in the interests of good practice further changes to our terms of reference should be considered to reflect new guidance published by the Financial Reporting Council 'UK Code of Corporate Governance for Private Companies' which focussed on culture and increased emphasis on internal audit.

Officers highlighted that the Council took its advice/guidance from CIPFA, although the above publication would be considered to see if there were any relevant points to report back to Committee.

In relation to the review of significant partnerships, members requested clarification on the meaning of partnership work.

John Scott, Audit Manager, highlighted that the remit of Audit Committee was to look at inter council collaborations rather than contractual partnerships, although the governance of other contracts was also covered.

Jaclyn Gibson, Chief Finance Officer, confirmed that an officer group was currently working on a list of the council's partnership agreements across the City to ensure we had the correct governance procedures in place. Once this piece of work was completed officers would report back to Audit Committee categorising the various partnership arrangements in place.

RESOLVED that the revised terms of reference be agreed and referred to Full Council for adoption.